

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, too many Americans have not the foggiest notion about the enormity of the Federal debt. Every so often, I ask various groups, how many millions of dollars are there in a trillion? They think about it, voice some estimates, most of them not even close.

They are stunned when they learn the facts, such as the case today. To be exact, as of 10:08 a.m. today, September 5, 1997, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$5,414,792,993,913.96.

Another astonishing statistic is that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$20,203.80.

As for how many millions of dollars there are in a trillion, there are a million in a trillion, which means that the Federal Government owes more than five million million dollars.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of Senate:

H.R. 2159. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-218. A resolution adopted by the Advisory Board of Directors of the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, Tennessee relative to proposed National Spallation Neutron Source; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-219. A resolution adopted by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments relative to global climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-221. A resolution adopted by governing body of the City of Brigantine, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-222. A resolution adopted by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments relative to monopolization of agriculture production; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-223. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, within the State of Nevada, the sport of rodeo has great historical, cultural and social significance, and is an important attraction for domestic and foreign tourism; and

Whereas, professional rodeos generate substantial economic activity and are significant sources of income, employment, recreation and enjoyment for Nevadans; and

Whereas, the sponsors associated with rodeos of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association assist in sustaining rodeos, making this sport affordable and accessible to millions of rodeo fans; and

Whereas, despite the importance of such events to the economy of Nevada and to the economies of other western states, federal agencies have proposed restrictions upon the activities of sponsors, programs and advertising connected with rodeo events; and

Whereas, such restrictions, if adopted, would jeopardize the financial viability of rodeos, causing considerable loss to tourism and related industries and interfering with the enjoyment of rodeo events by the millions of Americans who attend rodeos annually; and

Whereas, these restrictions would impose unconstitutional limitations on both commercial speech and the freedom of association of the membership of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association; and

Whereas, during their 104th session of Congress, Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid jointly introduced the "Rodeo Freedom Act of 1995," which, if enacted, would have prohibited the regulation by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs of any activity of sponsors or sponsorship programs connected with, or any advertising used or purchased by, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or any other professional rodeo association; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the Nevada Legislature supports the efforts of Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid in this regard and urges the Nevada Congressional Delegation to continue to bring this issue before Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the 69th Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby urge Congress to enact legislation patterned after the "Rodeo Freedom Act of 1995"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1150. An original bill to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-73).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1150. An original bill to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate cer-

tain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1151. A bill to amend subpart 8 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1151. A bill to amend subpart 8 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL ACT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to introduce legislation to provide new support to needy college students struggling to balance their efforts in college with their role as parents. The CAMPUS—Child Care Access Means Parents in School Act will support the participation of low-income parents in college by supporting campus-based child care. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator SNOWE and Senator KENNEDY.

The stereotypical college student is no longer an 18-year-old high school graduate. Increasingly, nontraditional students—older, with children and various job and life experiences—are filling the ranks of college classes. These students recognize the importance of college to future success.

But these students face new barriers unheard of in earlier times. Many are parents and must provide for their children while in school. Campus-based child care is a vital necessity for parents attending college. It is conveniently located, available during the right hours, and of high quality and lower cost. Unfortunately, it is unavailable at many schools. Even where programs exist, they are often difficult to access, particularly for low-income parents who struggle with the costs.

In the wake of welfare reform, new pressures are also coming to bear on low-income student parents. With the work requirements of the welfare reform bill, it will become increasingly difficult for students who are low-income parents to obtain Federal child care funds. States are likely to shift these funds to support welfare recipients returning to work, rather than to support low-income parents pursuing higher education. This outcome is particularly perverse given the impact of obtaining a college education on family earnings over time. Studies are clear: public assistance recipients who attend college are significantly more likely to leave welfare permanently.